



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Gang Member Sentenced to More than 100 Years for Car-to-Car Shooting That Left Woman Paralyzed**

A 23-year-old gang member has been sentenced to 101 years to life in state prison for a car-to-car shooting in which an innocent passenger was shot and paralyzed, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Jaime Alberto Espinoza (dob 1/4/94) was sentenced yesterday after a jury found him guilty on Sept. 19, 2016, of one count each of attempted premeditated murder, shooting at occupied motor vehicle and five counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas Trainor of the Hardcore Gang Division said the jury in case MA064981 also found that Espinoza inflicted great bodily injury, used a handgun and committed the crimes in affiliation with a criminal street gang.

A second defendant in the case, Fernando Albarran (dob 5/21/93) pleaded no contest on Aug. 29, 2016, to one count of attempted murder and was sentenced to 17 years to life in state prison.

On Dec. 19, 2014, Espinoza was involved in a verbal altercation with two individuals on a street near Palmdale High School before the two got into a car with three other victims, two of which were high school students, the prosecutor said. According to trial testimony, Espinoza then flagged down Albarran, got into his car and began to follow the vehicle with the two individuals and three others aboard.

When the victim's car stopped to drop the two individuals off at their house, the defendant drove up alongside and fired a shot into the car. The bullet struck the driver on the shoulder and hit the driver's sister in the front passenger seat in the head. She remains unable to use her legs and has limited speech as a result of the injury, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.